

JEROME ADVISED THE GRAND JURY NOT TO INDICT PERKINS

"This Is a Bitter Conflict Between Harriman and Morgan," He Told Them—Action Now Would Bring About a Clash of Financial Powers.

That District-Attorney Jerome prevented the indictment of George W. Perkins by claiming that it "would bring about a terrific clash of financial powers," was developed this afternoon at the hearing before Commissioner Hand, the representative of Gov. Hughes.

This was one of a number of interesting facts brought out when the minutes of the Grand Jury for March and April, 1906, were read by Lawyer Pierce.

Called It "A Hit at Perkins."

"You understand there has been a bitter conflict between Harriman and Morgan," said Mr. Jerome to the Grand Jury, "and that this matter of political contribution is a hit at George Perkins. Indictment now might bring about a terrific clash of financial powers."

The foreman then said: "Then, Mr. Jerome, you do not believe it advisable that this Grand Jury indict at this time?"

"I certainly do not deem it advisable at this time," was Mr. Jerome's answer.

The reading of the minutes made a sensation, followed then by Mr. Jerome being called to the stand.

"Did a special Grand Jury consider insurance cases as you told the March Grand Jury there would be?"

"Yes. We got indictments against Gillette and Grannis."

"Then you have the minutes of that special jury?"

"I sure have."

"Will you produce those minutes?"

"I cannot do so in justice to the people of this country."

"Why haven't all the indictments against Grannis been tried?"

"Mr. Justice Dowling has interpreted the law in such a manner as to make it doubtful if we can prosecute successfully. I am afraid these indictments will have to be dismissed if Justice Dowling's ruling is held good law. Those cases are temperately suspended."

Mr. Jerome asked Mr. Jerome:

"Since the finding of those first and only indictments, have you proceeded against any other insurance companies before a Grand Jury?"

"I decline to answer. I am not on trial here for anything but that I misinterpreted the law in the matter of a Perkins contribution. You want to go into a general investigation."

Commissioner Hand required Jerome to testify that he had read the minutes of the Equitable, the New York Life, the Mutual, and the Metropolitan Life Insurance companies were concerned, no Grand Jury had been called upon to investigate those companies other than at the times specified in Mr. Jerome's answer to the present inquiry.

Attorney Pierce, who is prosecuting the charges, had already added from Mr. Jerome's testimony that as far as the stand—that at no time had the District-Attorney specifically asked the Grand Jury to investigate the giving of the \$50,000 campaign fund from the coffers of the New York Life Insurance Company to Chairman Bliss, of the Republican Committee.

"I wish to state right here," said Jerome, rising from his seat at the end of the table, "that only incidentally was any testimony presented to the Grand Jury, touching on that campaign contribution."

The Grand Jury was ever asked specifically to investigate the matter of that contribution.

The announcement created surprise and comment. Lawyer Pierce introduced

Help Wanted To-Day!

As advertised for in The Morning World's Want Directory.

WEDNESDAY, April 29, 1906.		
Addressers	3	Housework
Agents	20	Horsehoers
Alteration Hands	1	Ironers
Bakers	3	Janitors
Barbers	1	Janitors
Blacksmiths	1	Jewellers
Bookbinders	2	Ladies Tailors
Bookkeepers	5	Laundresses
Boys	37	Machinists
Butchermen	8	Manners
Butchers	10	Manufacturers
Buttlinole-Makers	1	Milliners
Cabinet-Makers	1	Molders
Cannvases	22	Nurses
Carpenters	4	Operators
Cashiers	2	Painters
Chambermaids	10	Photographers
Chefs	3	Printers
Cigar-makers	3	Plumbers
Collectors	3	Polishers
Compositors	4	Porters
Cooks (M.)	8	Pastry Help
Cooks (F.)	2	Shoe Makers
Cutters	1	Pressmen
Days Work	1	Proofreaders
Dressmakers	47	Roofers
Dentists	1	Sailors
Dishwashers	1	Salesmen
Drivers	8	Skin Painters
Drummers	3	Skid Drivers
Electricians	2	Stitchers
Embroiderers	3	Stonemasons
Engineers	2	Stonemasons (F.)
Engravers	1	Tailors
Farm Hands	6	Tanners
Fewers	6	Varnishers
Fremonts	1	Waiters
Foremen	1	Waitresses
Gardeners	2	Watchmen
Girls	13	Miscellaneous
Harness-Makers	8	Total

The World printed 1,023 Help Ads. today, 584 more than all other New York papers combined.

THE WORLD RACE CHART

FAILURE DUE TO BROKER'S SUICIDE

Charles Coster's Speculations Had Involved the Firm of Coster, Knapp & Co.

ASSIGNEE IN CHARGE.

Brother of Suicide Arrives from Europe Shortly After Announcement of Failure.

As a result of the suicide of Charles Coster, a broker, at his home, No. 17 East Fifty-fifth street, last night, the Stock Exchange firm of Coster, Knapp & Co., of which he was a member, failed today with liabilities estimated at between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000.

William B. Coster, the only brother of the failed and junior member of the firm, arrived in New York on the Oceanic from a long trip to Europe an hour after the failure was announced. He had heard of the death of his brother by wireless last night.

The suicide of Charles Coster was caused by heavy losses on the stock market. He was an expert in side speculation. He had been in the United States Steel and Union Pacific. The sharp advance in steel yesterday afternoon is believed to have dissipated the last of a fortune already crippled by the October panic.

Brother Was Absent.

J. M. Knapp, a brother-in-law of Harry B. Hoopes, head of the H. B. Hoopes & Co.'s banking house, is the head member of the Coster firm. He and Charles Coster ran the business for the past six months, following the departure of William B. Coster for Europe, after selling his Stock Exchange seat for \$50,000.

The failure of the firm was announced at the opening of the Stock Exchange today. Mr. Knapp gave out the following statement:

"Owing to the death of Charles Coster and the consequent condition of our affairs it has been deemed advisable to assign the firm to an assignee for the benefit of all the creditors. This step was taken at the suggestion of most of the creditors, and Mr. Louis Werner, of the law firm of Simpson, Werner & Cardozo, of No. 52 Broadway, the assignee, has already started to straighten out the accounts so as to position to make a correct statement to all parties interested at the earliest day possible."

"Have you any idea of what drove Mr. Coster to kill himself?" Mr. Knapp was asked.

Due to Speculation.

"I have no doubt," replied Mr. Knapp, "that Mr. Coster was speculating. Our business was very small. We have not had more than a dozen customers lately. I saw Mr. Coster at lunch yesterday. He seemed to be cheerful and gave no intimation to me that he had been speculating beyond his ability to support his losses."

The firm of Coster, Knapp & Co. was formed in October, 1905, and occupied offices on the eleventh floor at No. 96 Broadway. It was not a wire house and most of its customers were members of the Union, University, New York Athletic and other clubs with which Mr. Charles Coster was connected. In common with all other Wall street houses, the Coster, Knapp & Co. firm had been doing a very light business during the winter and spring.

When the failure was first announced Mr. Knapp said he believed the liabilities would not exceed \$250,000. Later on he said he desired to withdraw this estimate, but refused to make a new one. It is believed in Wall street that Charles Coster was in much more deeply than his partner knew.

FIREBUG STARTS THREE BLAZES IN FRUIT STORE

Forces Front Door, Knocks Down Lamp and Sets Fire to Rubbish

Two boxes of burning rubbish in different parts of the basement fruit store of Joseph Serro, at No. 280 Eighth avenue, combined with an overturned lamp and a flammable door led the police to believe a fire which was discovered there by Patrolman Larkin early today was of incendiary origin.

Larkin discovered smoke coming from the basement and found the door had been forced open. In the basement he found the rubbish boxes ablaze in two corners of the room, and the overturned oil lamp burning in another corner, and after a vain attempt to quench the three turned in an alarm. The firemen had difficulty in extinguishing the fire, owing to the fact that it was in the cellar and dense smoke smothered them.

Larkin burned his hands in his efforts to act as fireman and had to go to the Washington Heights Hospital. A report of the fire was made to the Fire Marshal's office and the origin of the blaze will be investigated.

KILLED BY NAVAL MINE.

KIEL, April 29.—Two seamen of the German battleship Elsass were killed and six others were wounded here today as the result of the explosion of a mine. A launch had been out from the battleship to experiment in the blowing up of obstructions in the water. During the maneuver one of the mines on board exploded prematurely, with the above result.

Weather Clear. April 29. Track Fast.

194 FIRST RACE. Three-year-olds and upward, selling, \$700 added, six furlongs. Post time, 2:20. Off 2:30. Start made. Winner, ch. f. by Ben Brush—Fair Play—Dwight. Time—1:14.											
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